

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

reception means for receiving ~~first~~ a plurality of taste information that ~~represents a taste~~ represent respective tastes of a ~~plurality of users~~ user from a plurality of terminal apparatus apparatuses of the ~~user~~ plurality of users;

storage means for storing ~~[[a]]~~ the received plurality of taste information that ~~represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users~~ and attribute information corresponding to each of the plurality of ~~other~~ users;

search means for searching for ~~second~~ at least two taste information having a resemblance to ~~the first taste information~~ each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means;

retrieval means for retrieving at least the attribute information of the ~~plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information~~ at least two taste information searched by the search means; and

transmission means for transmitting the retrieved attribute information to ~~[[the]]~~ a terminal apparatus of ~~[[the]]~~ a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute information.

2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An information transmission method, comprising:

a reception step of receiving ~~first~~ a plurality of taste information that ~~represents a taste~~ represent respective tastes of a ~~user~~ plurality of users from a plurality of terminal apparatus apparatuses of the ~~user~~ plurality of users;

a search step of searching for ~~second~~ at least two taste information having a resemblance to ~~the first taste information~~ each other from ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of taste information of ~~other users~~ stored in a predetermined storage unit; and

a transmission step of transmitting at least attribute information of the at least two taste information searched in the search step ~~other users that corresponds to the second taste information to the~~ to a terminal apparatus of ~~[[the]]~~ a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the attribute information.

12. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the transmission step transmits at least group information that represents groups that the ~~other~~ plurality of users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

13. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the reception step receives a part of the ~~first~~ plurality of taste information ~~that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user~~ as search key information;

the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the ~~other~~ plurality of users stored in the predetermined storage unit ~~as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information;~~ and

the transmission step transmits at least group information that represents groups that the ~~other~~ plurality of users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

14. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the transmission step transmits at least the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the ~~other~~ plurality of users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

15. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the reception step receives a part of the ~~first~~ plurality of taste information ~~that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user~~ as search key information;

the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the ~~other~~ plurality of users stored in the predetermined storage unit ~~as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information~~; and

the transmission step transmits at least the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the ~~other~~ plurality of users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

16. (Currently Amended) An information reception method of a terminal apparatus, the information reception method comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting ~~first~~ taste information that represents a taste of a user to a predetermined apparatus that stores ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of ~~other~~ users; and

a reception step of receiving attribute information of at least two taste information ~~the plurality of other users that corresponds to the second taste information~~, the attribute information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the ~~first~~ taste information at least transmits to the terminal apparatus of the user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the attribute information, after searching for ~~second~~ the at least two taste information having a resemblance to ~~the first taste information~~ each other from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

17. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the reception step receives group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the ~~first~~ taste information at least transmits after the searching for ~~the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the transmission step transmits a part of the ~~first~~ taste information ~~that represents the taste of the user~~ as search key information to the predetermined apparatus ~~that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of other users;~~
and

the reception step receives group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after the searching for the at least two taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein ~~as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the reception step receives the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information, the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the ~~first~~ taste information at least transmits after the searching ~~for the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the transmission step transmits a part of the ~~first~~ taste information ~~that represents the taste of the user~~ as search key information to the predetermined apparatus ~~that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of other users;~~
and

the reception step receives the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information, the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after the searching for the at least two taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein ~~as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information.~~

21. (Currently Amended) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive ~~first~~ a plurality of taste information that ~~represents a taste~~ represent respective tastes of a plurality of users ~~user~~ from a plurality of terminal ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses of the ~~user~~ plurality of users;

a storage unit configured to store ~~[[a]]~~ the received plurality of taste information ~~that represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users~~ and attribute information corresponding to each of the plurality of ~~other~~ users;

a search unit configured to search for ~~second~~ at least two taste information having a resemblance to ~~the first taste information~~ each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage unit;

a retrieval unit configured to retrieve at least the attribute information of the ~~plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information~~ at least two taste information searched by the search unit; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit the retrieved attribute information ~~of the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information to the~~ to a terminal apparatus of [[the]] a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute information.

22. (Currently Amended) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

23. (Currently Amended) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the ~~first~~ plurality of taste information ~~that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user as~~ search key information;

the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means ~~as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information~~; and

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the

~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

24. (Currently Amended) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

25. (Currently Amended) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the ~~first~~ plurality of taste information ~~that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user~~ as search key information;

the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means ~~as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information~~; and

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

26. (Currently Amended) A terminal apparatus, comprising:

a transmission unit configured to transmit ~~first~~ taste information that represents a taste of a user to a predetermined apparatus that stores a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of ~~other~~ users; and

a reception unit configured to receive attribute information of at least two taste information ~~the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information~~, the attribute information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the ~~first~~ plurality of taste information at least transmits to the terminal apparatus of the user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the attribute information, after searching for ~~second~~ the at least two taste information having a resemblance to ~~the first taste information~~ each other from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

27. (Currently Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the reception unit is configured to receive group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the ~~first~~ taste information at least transmits after the searching for the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

28. (Currently Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the ~~first~~ taste information that ~~represents the taste of the user~~ as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of ~~other~~ users; and

the reception unit is configured to receive group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after the searching for the at least two taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as ~~the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information.~~

29. (Currently Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the reception unit is configured to receive the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information, the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the ~~first~~ taste information at least transmits after the searching for the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

30. (Currently Amended) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the ~~first~~ taste information that ~~represents the taste of the user~~ as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of ~~other users~~; and

the reception unit is configured to receive the ~~second~~ at least two taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of ~~other~~ users belong to and that corresponds to the ~~second~~ at least two taste information as the attribute information, the

~~second~~ at least two taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after the searching for the at least two taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as ~~the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having embedded therein instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, comprising:

receiving ~~first~~ a plurality of taste information that ~~represents a taste~~ represent respective tastes of a plurality of users ~~user~~ from a plurality of terminal ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses of the plurality of ~~user~~ users;

storing ~~[[a]]~~ the received plurality of taste information that ~~represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users~~ and attribute information corresponding to each of the plurality of ~~other~~ users;

searching for ~~second~~ at least two taste information having a resemblance to ~~the first taste information~~ each other from the plurality of taste information stored in the storing;

retrieving at least the attribute information of the ~~plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information~~ at least two taste information searched in the searching; and

transmitting the retrieved attribute information to ~~[[the]]~~ a terminal apparatus of ~~[[the]]~~ a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the retrieved attribute information.

32. (Currently Amended) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

reception means for receiving ~~first~~ a plurality of taste information that ~~represents a~~
~~taste~~ represent respective tastes of a plurality of users ~~[[user]]~~ from a plurality of terminal
~~apparatus~~ apparatuses of the user plurality of users;

storage means for storing ~~[[a]]~~ the received plurality of taste information ~~that~~
~~represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users~~ and attribute information
corresponding to each of the plurality of ~~other~~ users;

search means for searching for ~~second~~ at least two taste information having a
resemblance to ~~the first taste information~~ each other from the plurality of taste information
stored in the storage means; and

transmission means for transmitting at least the attribute information ~~of the plurality~~
~~of other users that correspond to the second taste information to the~~ to a terminal apparatus of
~~[[the]]~~ a user corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not
corresponding to the attribute information, when the reception means receives the ~~first~~ taste
information from one of the plurality of users.

33. (Currently Amended) An information reception apparatus, comprising:

transmission means for transmitting ~~first~~ taste information that represents a taste of a
user to a server;

reception means for receiving at least attribute information of a ~~plurality of other~~
~~users corresponding to second taste information~~ at least two taste information, from the
server, the attribute information being transmitted to a terminal apparatus of a user
corresponding to any one of the at least two taste information and not corresponding to the
attribute information; and

registration means for registering the received attribute information ~~of the plurality of other users corresponding to the second taste information~~ as said user's attribute information, wherein

the ~~second~~ at least two taste information ~~[[has]]~~ have a resemblance to the ~~first taste information~~ each other and ~~[[is]]~~ are searched by the server from a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of users stored in the server.